

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
DORAVILLE, GEORGIA

REPORT OF AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Oconee National Forest, Hitchiti Experimental Forest, Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge

STATE: Georgia

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 299,326 acres

DATE: April 10, 1979, April 18, 1979

PERCENT COVERAGE: 100%

CREW: W. A. Carothers, B. I. Hammond

REPORT PREPARED BY; W. A. Carothers

SURVEY OBJECTIVES: To detect the presence and location of southern pine beetle infestations.

SURVEY RESULTS

Two hundred and six spots of dead and dying pines were observed during the aerial survey. Estimates of the size of spots ranged from single trees to multiple tree spots containing 200 red and fading trees (Table 1). Spots occurred on State and private as well as Federal lands. The spots of red and dying pines were distributed throughout the survey area.

CONCLUSIONS

Southern pine beetle activity remains high in the survey area. Observable (from the air) expansion of spots detected during previous surveys has not occurred. However, the cool wet spring conditions in the survey area may be responsible. Ground checks of southern pine beetle spots have confirmed the presence of green infested trees. Observable expansion of spots should occur as the ambient temperature increases and rainfall decreases.

Ongoing ground checks by FIDM personnel (Asheville and Doraville Field Offices) will continue throughout the summer. A biological evaluation of the southern pine beetle within the survey area has been completed by FIDM personnel (Asheville Field Office). Continued aerial and ground detection by FIDM, National Forest and State personnel is needed to monitor the southern pine beetle status in the survey area.

For any additional information, Contact

Forest Insect and Disease Management Unit, S&PF
USFS - Southeastern Area

Northgate Office Park, Room 2103
3620 Interstate 85, NE
Doraville, GA 30340
Tel: 404-221-4796

or

P. O. Box 5895
Asheville, NC 28802
Tel: 704-258-2850
Ext. 625

Table 1. Summary of Aerial Detection Survey Data (Oconee National Forest, Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, Hitchiti Experimental Forest, State and Private Lands, April 1979).

Number of Spots by Infestation Size Class

Administrative Unit	Single Tree	2-5 Trees		6-20 Trees		21-50 Trees		51+ Trees	
		Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees
Oconee National Forest	44	48	186	14	176	5	185	1	200
Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge	6	5	22	2	25	0	0	1	75
Hitchiti Experimental Forest	4	1	3	1	15	0	0	1	200
State and private lands	13	43	179	12	156	2	55	3	300